

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of Approving FY 2022-2023 Solid Waste  
Collection Rates

ORDER NO. 42-2022

WHEREAS, Section 5.01(A) of the Columbia County Solid Waste Management Ordinance (SWMO) authorizes the Board of County Commissioners (Board), upon its own recommendation or the recommendation of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC), to approve and establish rate adjustments; and

WHEREAS, Section 5.01(A)(4) of the SWMO authorizes the Board to increase or decrease rates based on the cost of doing business; and

WHEREAS, Section 5.01(B)(6) of the SWMO provides that in determining rates, the Board shall give due consideration to, among other things, a reasonable rate of return to the franchisee based upon a percentage of gross receipts under the franchise; and

WHEREAS, in May 2022, the SWAC At-Large Members and County Staff reviewed Detailed Cost Reports (DCRs) and proposed rate adjustments submitted by the County's two solid waste collection franchises, Waste Management and Waste Connections; and

WHEREAS, based upon their review of the DCR's the SWAC At-Large Members and County Staff have concluded that absent the proposed rate increases the operating margin for both franchises will fall below the 8% level; and

WHEREAS, the SWAC policy is to recommend a hauler-requested rate adjustment to the Board when the operating margin for the franchise area falls below 8%;

WHEREAS, the SWAC policy is to recommend rate increases that will support an operating margin of between 8-14%. In doing so SWAC targets rates that will result in an operating margin's falling in the middle of that range; and

WHEREAS, the SWAC At-Large Members and County Staff have concluded the rate adjustment proposed by Waste Management will result in an operating margin within the target range; and

WHEREAS, Waste Connections/Hudson has proposed an overall rate increase of 7.4% for its three service areas, which is projected to result in an operating margin below the middle of the acceptable range, but proposes to apportion that increase between its service areas in a manner that results in an operating margin in the Rural St Helens service area that is in the upper end of the midrange at 12%; and

WHEREAS, the SWAC At-Large Members and County Staff have concluded the rate adjustment proposed by Connections/Hudson should be approved as it falls within the range of acceptable operating margins for each of its service areas while bringing rates between the service areas closer in line; and

WHEREAS, accordingly, the SWAC and County staff recommend that the solid waste collection rates for FY 2022-2023 be adjusted by a 9.0% rate increase for the rural Scappoose area, a 7.7% rate increase for the rural Vernonia area, a 2.1% rate increase for the rural Clatskanie service area, a 8.5% rate increase for the rural St Helens service area, and a 8.5% rate increase for the rural Rainier area; and

WHEREAS, following proper notice, the Board held a hearing on June 29, 2022, to consider the rate and fee proposals; and

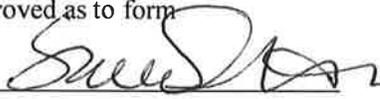
NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, as follows:

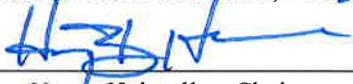
1. That the rates for solid waste collection be adjusted by a 9.0% rate increase for the rural Scappoose area, a 7.7% rate increase for the rural Vernonia area, a 2.1% rate increase for the rural Clatskanie service area, a 8.5% rate increase for the rural St Helens service area, and a 8.5% rate increase for the rural Rainier area; and.
2. The rates and fees authorized under this Board Order shall take effect July 1, 2022.

Dated this 29 day of June, 2022.

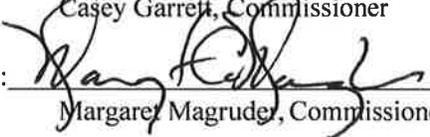
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

Approved as to form

By:   
Office of County Counsel

By:   
Henry Heimuller, Chair

By:   
Casey Garrett, Commissioner

By:   
Margaret Magruder, Commissioner